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"The American Advance, a Study in Territorial Expansion." By EDMUND J. CARPENTER. Pp. 331. Price, \$2.50. London and New York: John Lane, 1903.

It is but natural that the centennial celebration of the largest territorial acquisition of the United States should be an occasion for the appearance of many books dealing with its expansion. It is but natural, also, that the altogether too recent passing of the Spanish power from this continent should offer many an inviting theme to the moralist who delights to assign causes for the decay of national greatness. The patient reader, however, who wades through volume after volume suggested by one or both of the above occurrences, may well ask if the majority of such productions are really worth while. If authors really must write about the expansion of the American republic at the expense of its Spanish and Mexican neighbors, why would it not be well occasionally to give us a change in point of view? For instance, let them use some of the sources now available in the Southwest and Mexico, to say nothing of possible material in Spain, to show us what the Spanish-American thought of his energetic opponents. It indeed seems that we have reached a point in our Western historical writing when no further works should be produced until there is a thorough exploitation of the archives which the careful, document-creating Spaniard so thoughtfully piled up for us. That such an exploitation will force us to adopt many new conclusions regarding apparently well-established truths goes without saying, and it may be that many phases of the new view of our land-absorbing career will give us a lessened feeling of satisfied complacency; yet this process of rigid investigation must be employed if we are ever to obtain a true picture of the expansion of the American people.

The volume under review is a fairly good production of its kind, but it shares the fault of many others in presenting a one-sided view. The author claims to have examined certain government publications in the preparation of his work, and his pages, so far as subject matter is concerned, seem to substantiate his claim. References to sources, however, are conspicuously absent. In a book intended for the average reader one could excuse the lack, were it not so very evident that he is giving us merely a rehash of ordinary, well-used material. One may arise from a perusal of the book with a somewhat clearer idea of certain historical events, but with a totally false conception of their true significance, and in many cases with a wrong date or a twisted interpretation to mislead one still further. Up to within a comparatively short time there was some excuse for writing a history of the Southwest largely from our own sources, but such is no longer possible. With two large depositories available in Texas, with collections in New Mexico and California, with the *Archivo General* of Mexico City, to say nothing of accessible material in England, France, and Spain, one should come forward with an apology to inflict upon the public another volume on American expansion based merely on American sources.

There is much to criticise in the work aside from the main fault of one-sidedness in treatment. Is there any special reason for giving 1822 as the date for the independence of Mexico? Is it strictly true that Monroe was to treat

for the "cession of Louisiana alone" (page 31)? Is he rightly called the "second great expansionist whom history has given us"? Many readers will not concur "in the historical fact of the discovery of the Texas region by La Salle in the year 1682" (page 113). His statement that "it was undeniable that the revolt of the Mexican province of Texas had its inception in the action of the Mexican republic in abolishing slavery" (page 128) is one that will readily be questioned and justly so. Throughout his discussion of the annexation of Texas he follows too closely the old idea that slavery was the "true" cause of the Texas movement, and utterly ignores the fundamental factors of racial differences and insurrectionary movements in Mexico. Even John Quincy Adams recognized the strength of the latter element, and one need spend but a few hours in such a collection as the *Béxar Archives* to realize the strength of the former. It may seem too fine a point to object to the word "city" as applied to Guadalupe Hidalgo, but there seems no reason for the numerous typographical and other mistakes in dates, with which the book is so liberally sprinkled, as to render it tedious to note them. It is not at all surprising that our author devotes some six pages of his chapter on "Oregon" to a vivid statement of Whitman's famous ride and its supposed results. He is not in the least deterred by recent "iconoclastic attempts" to relegate the story "to the realm of fable," but even imparts an air of reality to his version by reporting a conversation between Webster and Dr. Whitman. His final chapters are rightly brief, but with an occasional attempt at picturesque writing that distorts the true historic perspective.

Many of the descriptive passages of the book are spirited and interesting, but the serious fault of a lack of complete preparation for the task, coupled with carelessness in statement and inaccuracies in dates, renders the work much less helpful than it should be. The volume contains a map as a frontispiece but lacks an index or complete table of contents.

I. J. Cox.

Philadelphia.

Spinoza's Political and Ethical Philosophy. By ROBERT A. DUFF, M. A. Pp. 516. Price, \$3.50. Glasgow: James Maclehose & Sons. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1903.

This volume, the work of a Glasgow University professor, is by far the most systematic and scholarly exposition of Spinoza's philosophy that has yet appeared in English. Its chief merit as compared with the recent work of Sir Frederick Pollock is its greater comprehensiveness in scope, its finer elucidation of statement and its better correlation of ideas, although it falls short of the latter work in several minor particulars, notably as regards the treatment of the sources of Spinoza's philosophy. This important phase of the subject is dismissed by Professor Duff with a few paragraphs. Something like two-thirds of the volume is given up to an exposition of Spinoza's doctrines of law and politics as set forth in his two celebrated works, the "*Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*" and the "*Tractatus Politicus*," the former published in 1670, the latter, an unfinished treatise, appearing shortly after the author's death in